

## INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS PROJECT PROPOSALS

**Refuge/Wetland Management District:** Ridgefield NWR

**Name of Project:** Invasive Plant Focused Eradication

**Total amount requested:** \$15,000

**Project Description (20 Points): 1. Invasive Species Treatment, Control, and/or Restoration;  
3. Survey, Inventory, and/or Post-treatment Monitoring:**

The proposed project is a part of the Refuge invasive species management program and will help achieve goals and priority habitats identified in the Refuge CCP. The project will survey approximately 1,500 acres as part of our Early Detection/Rapid Response (ED/RR) efforts – focusing on known species and those on the southwest Washington/Willamette Valley watch lists. Control will be focused on eradicating 4 species which pose the greatest threat and/or have the greatest momentum towards eradication, and can be treated during July-September: yellow flag iris, fragrant water lily, water primrose willow (discovered in 2013), and Japanese knotweed. In addition, critical momentum will be incremented towards depleting the seed bank of the species most in need of eradication - ricefield bulrush. Funds will be obligated and all work will be completed in FY 14, with most work taking place from July 1 - Sept. 30, 2014.

**Friends Groups and other Volunteers (10 Points):** Funds are requested to maintain the full-time Friends of Ridgefield NWR Coordinator position to direct the project. A Seasonal Bulrush Field Leader will direct the bulrush digging project, with some assistance from the Friends AmeriCorps member. Volunteer crews, trained plant hunters, and applicators will search, map, dig, and spray invasives by boat, ATV, and on foot. Volunteers are expected to contribute more than 100 visits for more than 350 hours.

**Other Partners (10 Points):** Existing partners include the Friends, City of Ridgefield, Gee Creek Committee, and community volunteers. Other cooperating partners are Clark County Vegetation Management, the State of Washington (DNR and WDFW), and 5 private landowners, all in the Ridgefield Columbia Floodplain Cooperative Weed Management Area (WMA) formed in 2011. Best practices information will be shared with other practitioners in the Gorge and SW Washington. Some work will take place on private duck club land if low water levels permit.

**Comment [BF1]:** Yes, but... What do they do for you in terms of this project?

**Criteria for Project Success (10 Points):** ED/RR has been used effectively for the past 6 years, detecting a new species single plant occurrences and new locations annually. Project personnel and volunteers will survey 1,500 acres for ED/RR. Approximately 130 acres containing target invasive plants will be spot treated: 70 acres through pulling with volunteer crews and 60 acres by herbicide treatment. Control work will essentially eradicate the 4 target species in areas treated. In addition, 14 ricefield bulrush acres will be sprayed and disked to continue momentum to deplete the seed bank. Funds awarded will be combined with other contributions to achieve the project objectives. Areas treated will be monitored for at least two years and any survival re-treated. Results will be monitored by repeating existing permanent photopoints and establishing new points as needed, and by comparing GPS location mapping. Ricefield bulrush will be monitored in 7m<sup>2</sup> plots established in 2002, 3 spray/disk density transects set up in 2010-2012, and by recording the numbers of plants pulled per GPS waypoint.

**Budget:**

Salaries and Benefits: Habitat Restoration Coordinator Jul-Sep FY 14	\$7,500
Salaries and Benefits: Seasonal Bulrush Field Leader Jul-Sep FY14	7,500
<b>TOTAL requested:</b>	<b>15,000</b>
Other Contributions:	
Refuge support: PPE, herbicide, applicator training.	1,000
Friends of RNWR: AmeriCorps position cost 1 mo. \$500, Seasonal Bulrush Field Leader Salary and Benefits \$2,500, Volunteer supplies - \$400.	3,400
Volunteer labor (estimated 350 hours)	7,000
<b>Other Contributions Total:</b>	<b>11,400</b>

**Comment [BF2]:** This portion withdrew by Deputy PL; covered by Youth Hires

2/25/14